

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1        1. (original) A method for preserving the ratio of the  
2 tensile strength in the length direction to the tensile  
3 strength in the breadth direction of a mat of filaments  
4 which is in displacement, passing from one conveyor to  
5 another, characterized in that the mat is subjected to a  
6 vacuum applying it to a support during the passage from the  
7 first conveyor to a movable element.

1        2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1,  
2 characterized in that the mat is slowed while it passes from  
3 the first conveyor to the movable element.

1        3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim  
2 1 or 2, characterized in that the first conveyor is that  
3 onto which the filaments for forming the mat are deposited.

1        4. (currently amended) An installation for producing a  
2 nonwoven fabric, comprising a spun-bonding tower {1}  
3 depositing a mat of filaments onto a first conveyor {2}, the

4 mat being delivered on a first movable element {5} to means  
5 {6} for consolidation by entanglement, and means intended  
6 for causing the mat of filaments to pass onto the first  
7 movable element {5}, characterized in that the means {4}  
8 intended for causing the mat of filaments to pass onto the  
9 first movable element {5} comprise a second movable element  
10 {4} having a device for the application of a vacuum which  
11 maintains the mat on the outer surface of the second movable  
12 element {4}.

1       5. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in  
2 claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the second movable  
3 element is a drum {4} or a conveyor.

1       6. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in  
2 either of claims 4 and 5 claim 4, characterized in that the  
3 first conveyor {2} is more air-permeable than the first  
4 movable element {5}.

1       7. (original) The installation as claimed in claim 6,  
2 characterized in that the first conveyor has an air  
3 permeability of between 500 and 1100 CFM (14.1 and 31  
4 m<sup>3</sup>/min).

1       8. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in

2 claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the first movable  
3 element {5} has an air permeability of between 50 and 500  
4 CFM (1.41 and 14.1 m<sup>3</sup>/min).

1 9. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in  
2 ~~one of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, characterized in that the  
3 first conveyor is a multilayer cloth, while the first  
4 movable element {5} is a single layer cloth.

1 10. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in  
2 ~~one of claims 4 to 9~~ claim 4, characterized in that the  
3 first conveyor {2} delivers the mat directly to the means  
4 {4} intended for causing the mat of filaments to pass.

1 11. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in  
2 ~~one of claims 4 to 10~~ claim 4, characterized in that the  
3 first movable element {5} has a suction device {7} which  
4 cooperates with the means {4} for causing the mat to pass,  
5 in order to facilitate the passage of the mat from the means  
6 {4} to the first movable element {5}.

1 12. (currently amended) The use of a machine as  
2 claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims 4 to 11~~ claim 4, for  
3 preserving the ratio of the tensile strength in the length  
4 direction to the tensile strength in the breadth direction

5 of a mat of filaments which is in displacement, coming from  
6 a spun-bonding tower and going to a device for consolidation  
7 by means of water jets.